

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for remotely servicing a computational component, comprising:

providing a firewall and a computational component requiring servicing, the firewall analyzing communications to the computational component and configured to block servicing commands from a servicing entity;

establishing, through the firewall, a session with a servicing computational component, packets of the session comprising servicing commands and responses, wherein the incoming packets pass through the firewall, wherein the servicing commands and responses are embedded in packets of a session-type otherwise permitted by the firewall and unrelated to servicing of the computational component, and wherein the packets omit payload normally associated with the session;

receiving, by the firewall, an incoming packet associated with the session, the incoming packet comprising a machine executable servicing command for the computational component requiring servicing; and

forwarding, by the firewall, the servicing command to the computational component requiring servicing.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the session is defined by a point-to-point protocol, wherein the session is a real-time or near real-time session, and wherein the servicing command is associated with at least one of maintenance, diagnosis, provisioning, administration, monitoring, operating, repair, replacement, ~~(re)configuring~~reconfiguring, configuring, and servicing of the computational component.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the forwarding step occurs at least substantially immediately after the receiving step, ~~[[and]]~~wherein the session type is a computer telephony session, and wherein the session packets omit codec and voice information.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the session is defined by a point-to-point protocol, wherein the session is configured as an instant messaging session, and

~~wherein voice and data messages~~ graphical display instructions are omitted from the incoming packet.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the session is configured as a voice-over-IP session and wherein the session packets omit voice information.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ a packet header and trailer of the packet are configured as a voice-over-IP packet but the payload comprises text setting forth the machine executable servicing command.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ a packet header and trailer of the packet are configured as an instant message packet but the payload comprises the machine executable servicing command.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 7, wherein the machine executable servicing command is not associated with operation of a graphical user interface or the display of information.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the servicing command is associated with at least one of the following call processing parameters: Digital Communication System or DCS call coverage, audible message waiting, vectoring, attendant vectoring, Asynchronous Transfer Mode or ATM WAN spare processor, ATM, dial by name, echo cancellation, multimedia call handling, multiple call handling, caller identification, multifrequency signaling, Integrated Services Digital Network or ISDN network call redirection, centralized attendant, remote office, enhanced Direct Inward Dialing or DID routing, survivable remote processor, time of day routing, tenant partitioning, hospitality announcements, Vector Directory Number or VDN of origin announcement, wideband switching, wireless, logged-in automated call distribution or ACD agents, maximum currently registered IP stations, maximum administered IP trunks, offer category, maximum number of ports, maximum number of administered remote office trunks, maximum number of mobile stations, abbreviated dialing enhanced list, audible message waiting, vectoring, answer supervision by call classifier, ATM trunking, agent states, dial by name, DCS call coverage, echo cancellation, multifrequency signaling, wideband switching, logged-in agents, offer category, maximum numbers of concurrently registered IP stations, administered IP trunks, ports, and concurrently administered remote office stations/trunks, call center release, features that have a product value (*e.g.*, corresponding to a product name or type), a release number (*e.g.*, referring to a product release identifier), and

numeric value(s) (*e.g.*, indicating an operational parameter associated with the product and/or release, such as how many ports are licensed, how many licenses for the product are granted, how many concurrent users are allowed, and/or how many stations can be concurrently administered with the feature).

10. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the servicing command is associated with at least one of the following user features: (a) features that are invoked prior to placing a call, (b) features that are invoked during a call, (c) features that are non-call associated that do not require display interactions, (d) features that are non-call associated that require display interactions, (e) features that are operated against calls not associated with the activating station, and (f) features that are operated against an alerting call.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 10, wherein the servicing command is associated with at least one of the following user features: analog bridged appearance select, abbreviated dialing, active appearance select, automatic appearance select, automatic call back, automatic intercom, autodial, bridged appearance selection, call appearance selection, call forwarding all, call forwarding busy/no answer, call forwarding deactivation, call park, call unpark, call pick-up, conference no answer, conference, calling party number block, calling party number unblock, dial intercom, directed call pick-up, drop last added party, drop call, exclusion (which prevents a user from being active on the same call on a physical port and a trunk port), extend call off-switch enable (to enable the mapping agent), extend call off-switch disable (to disable the mapping agent), group page, handover, held appearance select, hunt night service, last number dialed, malicious call trace activation, malicious call trace deactivation, manual message waiting, priority call, send all calls, manual signaling, transfer on hang up, transfer to voice mail, and trunk night service.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the session is point-to-point, wherein a header and trailer of the session packets resemble the session type permitted by the firewall, and wherein the servicing commands and responses are embedded in session packet payloads in lieu of message content intended for a human recipient.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the type of the session is not intended to be associated with a servicing command, wherein the session type does not enable packet numerical sequencing, and wherein the session packets are altered to numerically sequence the packets.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a servicing response to the servicing command from the computational component requiring servicing;
configuring the servicing response as at least one packet associated with the session; and
sending the at least one servicing response packet to the servicing computational component.
15. (Original) The method of Claim 13, wherein the type of session is intended for person-to-person communications.
16. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium comprising computer executable instructions operable to perform the steps of Claim 1.
17. (Currently Amended) A logic circuit comprising circuitry operable to perform the steps of Claim 1.
18. (Currently Amended) A system for remotely servicing a computational component, comprising:
a firewall operable to analyze incoming communications to the computational component and block servicing commands from a servicing computational component;
a computational component requiring servicing;
a data collection agent operable to (a) establish, through the firewall, a session with a servicing computational component, packets of the session comprising servicing commands and responses, wherein the servicing commands and responses are embedded in packets of a session type otherwise permitted by the firewall and unrelated to servicing of the computational component and wherein the packets omit payload normally associated with the session, (b) receive, through the firewall, an incoming packet associated with the session, the incoming packet comprising a machine executable servicing command for the computational component requiring servicing, and (c) forward the servicing command to the computational component requiring servicing.
19. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 18, wherein the session is defined by a point-to-point protocol, wherein the exchange of messages between the agent and the servicing computational component is a real-time or near real-time and wherein the servicing command is associated with at least one of maintenance, diagnosis, provisioning, administration, monitoring,

operating, repair, replacement, ~~(re)configuring~~configuring, reconfiguring, and servicing of the computational component .

20. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 18, wherein the forwarding function occurs at least substantially immediately after the receiving step and the session type is a computer telephony session and wherein the session packets omit codec and voice information.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 18, wherein the session is configured as an instant messaging session and wherein the session packets omit messages intended for human recipients.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 18, wherein the session is configured as a voice-over-IP session and wherein voice and data messages are omitted from the incoming packet.

23. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 18, wherein ~~[[the]]~~a packet header and trailer of the incoming packet are configured as a voice-over-IP packet but the payload comprises text setting forth the machine executable servicing command.

24. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 18, wherein ~~[[the]]~~a packet header and trailer of the incoming packet are configured as an instant message packet but the payload comprises the machine executable servicing command.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 24, wherein the machine executable servicing command is not associated with operation of a graphical user interface or the display of information and wherein the session packets exclude graphical display instructions.

26. (Original) The system of Claim 18, wherein the servicing command is associated with at least one of the following call processing parameters: Digital Communication System or DCS call coverage, audible message waiting, vectoring, attendant vectoring, Asynchronous Transfer Mode or ATM WAN spare processor, ATM, dial by name, echo cancellation, multimedia call handling, multiple call handling, caller identification, multifrequency signaling, Integrated Services Digital Network or ISDN network call redirection, centralized attendant, remote office, enhanced Direct Inward Dialing or DID routing, survivable remote processor, time of day routing, tenant partitioning, hospitality announcements, Vector Directory Number or VDN of origin announcement, wideband switching, wireless, logged-in automated call distribution or ACD agents, maximum currently registered IP stations, maximum administered IP trunks, offer category, maximum number of ports, maximum number of administered remote

office trunks, maximum number of mobile stations, abbreviated dialing enhanced list, audible message waiting, vectoring, answer supervision by call classifier, ATM trunking, agent states, dial by name, DCS call coverage, echo cancellation, multifrequency signaling, wideband switching, logged-in agents, offer category, maximum numbers of concurrently registered IP stations, administered IP trunks, ports, and concurrently administered remote office stations/trunks, call center release, features that have a product value (*e.g.*, corresponding to a product name or type), a release number (*e.g.*, referring to a product release identifier), and numeric value(s) (*e.g.*, indicating an operational parameter associated with the product and/or release, such as how many ports are licensed, how many licenses for the product are granted, how many concurrent users are allowed, and/or how many stations can be concurrently administered with the feature).

27. (Original) The system of Claim 18, wherein the servicing command is associated with at least one of the following user features: (a) features that are invoked prior to placing a call, (b) features that are invoked during a call, (c) features that are non-call associated that do not require display interactions, (d) features that are non-call associated that require display interactions, (e) features that are operated against calls not associated with the activating station, and (f) features that are operated against an alerting call.

28. (Original) The system of Claim 27, wherein the servicing command is associated with at least one of the following user features: analog bridged appearance select, abbreviated dialing, active appearance select, automatic appearance select, automatic call back, automatic intercom, autodial, bridged appearance selection, call appearance selection, call forwarding all, call forwarding busy/no answer, call forwarding deactivation, call park, call unpark, call pick-up, conference no answer, conference, calling party number block, calling party number unblock, dial intercom, directed call pick-up, drop last added party, drop call, exclusion (which prevents a user from being active on the same call on a physical port and a trunk port), extend call off-switch enable (to enable the mapping agent), extend call off-switch disable (to disable the mapping agent), group page, handover, held appearance select, hunt night service, last number dialed, malicious call trace activation, malicious call trace deactivation, manual message waiting, priority call, send all calls, manual signaling, transfer on hang up, transfer to voice mail, and trunk night service.

29. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 18, wherein the session is point-to-point, wherein a header and trailer of the session packets resemble the session type permitted by the firewall, and wherein the servicing commands and responses are embedded in session packet payloads in lieu of message content intended for a human recipient.

30. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 18, wherein the type of the session is not intended to be associated with a servicing command, wherein the session type does not enable packet numerical sequencing, and wherein the session packets are altered to numerically sequence the packets.

31. (Original) The system of Claim 18, wherein the data collection agent is further operable to:

(d) receive a servicing response to the servicing command from the computational component requiring servicing;

(e) configure the servicing response as at least one packet associated with the session; and

(f) send the at least one servicing response packet to an administrative device.

32. (Original) The system of Claim 30, wherein the type of session is intended for person-to-person communications.

33. (Currently Amended) A method for remotely servicing a computational component, comprising:

providing a firewall and a computational component requiring servicing, the firewall analyzing communications to the computational component and configured to block servicing commands from a servicing computational component;

establishing, through the firewall, a session with a servicing computational component, packets of the session comprising servicing commands and responses, with the incoming packets passing through the firewall, wherein the servicing commands and responses are embedded in packets of a session type otherwise permitted by the firewall and unrelated to servicing of the computational component, wherein the type of session is intended for person-to-person communications, and wherein the session packets exclude message content intended for a human recipient;

sending a servicing command received in one or more packets associated with the session to the computational component requiring servicing, each of the one or more packets comprising

at least part of a machine executable servicing command for the computational component requiring servicing;

receiving, from the computational component requiring servicing, a servicing response to a servicing command;

configuring the servicing response as a packet associated with the session; and

forwarding the servicing response packet to the servicing computational component.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 33, wherein the session is a real-time or near real-time session, wherein a header and trailer of the session packets resemble the session type permitted by the firewall, and wherein the servicing commands and responses are embedded in session packet payloads in lieu of message content intended for a human recipient.

35. (Original) The method of Claim 33, wherein the forwarding step occurs at least substantially immediately after the receiving step.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 33, wherein the session is configured as an instant messaging session and wherein the session packets omit both graphical user display instructions and message content for a human recipient.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 33, wherein the session is configured as a voice-over-IP session and wherein the packet header comprises fields for source port, destination port, length, version, padding, re-extension bit, count, marker, payload type, sequence number, and timestamp, each containing a value associated with a packet in a voice-over-IP session.

38. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 33, wherein [[the]] packet headers and trailers of the one or more packets are configured as a computer telephony packet but the payload comprises text setting forth the machine executable servicing command in lieu of a voice communication from a human sender for a human recipient.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 33, wherein [[the]] packet headers and trailers of the one or more packets are configured as an instant message packet but the payload comprises text setting forth the machine executable servicing command and omits graphical display instructions and a text communication from a human sender for a human recipient.

40. (Original) The method of Claim 39, wherein the machine executable servicing command is not associated with operation of a graphical user interface or the display of information.

41. (Original) The method of Claim 33, wherein the servicing command is associated with at least one of the following call processing parameters: Digital Communication System or DCS call coverage, audible message waiting, vectoring, attendant vectoring, Asynchronous Transfer Mode or ATM WAN spare processor, ATM, dial by name, echo cancellation, multimedia call handling, multiple call handling, caller identification, multifrequency signaling, Integrated Services Digital Network or ISDN network call redirection, centralized attendant, remote office, enhanced Direct Inward Dialing or DID routing, survivable remote processor, time of day routing, tenant partitioning, hospitality announcements, Vector Directory Number or VDN of origin announcement, wideband switching, wireless, logged-in automated call distribution or ACD agents, maximum currently registered IP stations, maximum administered IP trunks, offer category, maximum number of ports, maximum number of administered remote office trunks, maximum number of mobile stations, abbreviated dialing enhanced list, audible message waiting, vectoring, answer supervision by call classifier, ATM trunking, agent states, dial by name, DCS call coverage, echo cancellation, multifrequency signaling, wideband switching, logged-in agents, offer category, maximum numbers of concurrently registered IP stations, administered IP trunks, ports, and concurrently administered remote office stations/trunks, call center release, features that have a product value (*e.g.*, corresponding to a product name or type), a release number (*e.g.*, referring to a product release identifier), and numeric value(s) (*e.g.*, indicating an operational parameter associated with the product and/or release, such as how many ports are licensed, how many licenses for the product are granted, how many concurrent users are allowed, and/or how many stations can be concurrently administered with the feature).

42. (Original) The method of Claim 33, wherein the servicing command is associated with at least one of the following user features: (a) features that are invoked prior to placing a call, (b) features that are invoked during a call, (c) features that are non-call associated that do not require display interactions, (d) features that are non-call associated that require display interactions, (e) features that are operated against calls not associated with the activating station, and (f) features that are operated against an alerting call.

43. (Original) The method of Claim 42, wherein the servicing command is associated with at least one of the following user features: analog bridged appearance select, abbreviated dialing, active appearance select, automatic appearance select, automatic call back, automatic intercom, autodial, bridged appearance selection, call appearance selection, call forwarding all, call forwarding busy/no answer, call forwarding deactivation, call park, call unpark, call pick-up, conference no answer, conference, calling party number block, calling party number unblock, dial intercom, directed call pick-up, drop last added party, drop call, exclusion (which prevents a user from being active on the same call on a physical port and a trunk port), extend call off-switch enable (to enable the mapping agent), extend call off-switch disable (to disable the mapping agent), group page, handover, held appearance select, hunt night service, last number dialed, malicious call trace activation, malicious call trace deactivation, manual message waiting, priority call, send all calls, manual signaling, transfer on hang up, transfer to voice mail, and trunk night service.

44. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 33, wherein the session is defined by a point-to-point protocol, wherein a header and trailer of the session packets resemble the session type permitted by the firewall, and wherein the servicing commands and responses are embedded in session packet payloads in lieu of message content intended for a human recipient.

45. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 33, wherein the type of the session is not intended to be associated with a servicing command, wherein the session type does not enable packet numerical sequencing, and wherein the session packets are altered to numerically sequence the packets.

46. (Original) The method of Claim 33, further comprising:
receiving the one or more packets associated with the session; and
forwarding the servicing command to the computational component requiring servicing.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 45, wherein the servicing command is associated with at least one of maintenance, diagnosis, provisioning, administration, monitoring, operating, repair, replacement, (re)configuring, and servicing of the computational component and the session type is a computer telephony session.

48. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium comprising computer executable instructions to perform the steps of Claim 33.

49. (Currently Amended) A logic circuit comprising circuitry operable to perform the steps of Claim 33.